

Application No. 10/763,917
AMENDMENT dated April 12, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 2, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, the cartridge comprising an inlet for the introduction of an aqueous medium into the cartridge and an outlet for discharge of a beverage produced from the one or more beverage ingredients, wherein the cartridge comprises an outer member and an inner member conjoined on assembly with the outer member, characterised by the inner member comprising a discharge spout defining the outlet of the cartridge.

2. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 1 wherein the discharge spout is integral with the inner member.

3. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 2 wherein the discharge spout comprises a tapered portion.

4. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 3 wherein the discharge spout comprises a cylindrical portion.

5. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 4 wherein the discharge spout comprises a partition extending at least part way along the length of the discharge spout.

6. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 5 wherein a snap-fit arrangement is provided to conjoin the outer member and the inner member.

7. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 6 wherein the snap-fit arrangement comprises co-operating formations on the inner member and the outer member.

8. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 7 wherein the outer member comprises a closed first end and an open second end, wherein with the inner member conjoined to the outer member the outlet of the discharge spout is directed towards the open second end.

9. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 8 wherein the inlet is directed towards the open second end of the outer member.

10. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 9 wherein the outer member and inner member are conjoined at or near the closed first end of the outer member.

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11. (Currently Amended) ~~A cartridge as claimed in claim 10~~ A cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, the cartridge comprising an inlet for the introduction of an aqueous medium into the cartridge and an outlet for discharge of a beverage produced from the one or more beverage ingredients, wherein the cartridge comprises an outer member and an inner member conjoined on assembly with the outer member, characterised by the inner member comprising a discharge spout defining the outlet of the cartridge wherein the outer member comprises an inwardly directed extension which is received in a proximal end of the discharge spout on conjoining of the outer member and the inner member.

12. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 11 wherein the inner member comprises a frame having a filter disposed thereupon.

13. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 12 wherein one or more passages are defined between the frame and a closed first end of the outer member when the inner member and outer member are conjoined.

14. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 13 wherein the one or more passages are delimited by webs extending upwardly from the frame to the closed first end of the outer member.

15. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 14 wherein the one or more passages slope downwardly towards the discharge spout.

16. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 11 wherein the inner member further comprises a skirt surrounding the discharge spout.

17. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 16 wherein the skirt comprises an upper extension which, on assembly of the cartridge, contacts the closed first end of the cartridge.

18. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 17 wherein an upper rim of the upper extension engages a co-operating formation of the outer member to form a snap-fit arrangement for conjoining the inner member to the outer member.

19. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 18 wherein the co-operating formation of the outer member is an inwardly directed extension.

20. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 19 wherein the cartridge is disc-shaped.

21. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 20 further comprising means for producing a jet of the beverage, which means comprises an aperture in a beverage flow path between the inlet and the outlet.

22. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 21 wherein the inlet and/or outlet is covered by a substantially air- and water-impermeable material prior to the formation, in use, of the inlet and/or outlet in the cartridge.

23. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 22 wherein the inlet and/or outlet is covered by a substantially air- and water-impermeable laminate.

24. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 23 wherein the laminate is polypropylene.

25. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 24 wherein the outer member and/or inner member are formed from polypropylene.

26. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 25 wherein the outer member and/or inner member are formed from a biodegradable polymer.

27. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 26 wherein the outer member and/or inner member is formed by injection moulding.

28. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 27 wherein the inner member forms a load-bearing member.

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29. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 28 wherein the discharge spout comprises a constriction.

30. (Original) A plurality of cartridges as claimed in claim 29 wherein the percentage yield of the beverage produced from the one or more beverage ingredients contained in the cartridges is consistent to within 1.0 standard deviations.

31. (New) A cartridge as claimed in claim 1 wherein the discharge spout includes a frusto-conical portion and a cylindrical portion.